

Fire Engagement Fellow, Fire Grand Challenge

Employer Organization: Conservation X Labs

Supervisor Name: Liam Hodack Torpy

Internship Description:

ABOUT CONSERVATION X LABS

Conservation X Labs (CXL) seeks to solve the world's greatest conservation problems by supporting innovative solutions that address the underlying drivers of extinction. We create solutions to prevent the extinction crisis through developing new technology in our labs, leading innovation competitions, and empowering talented innovators across disciplines to create transformative products that serve people and our planet.

THE FIRE GRAND CHALLENGE

Driven by complex environmental and social factors, severe fires now burn throughout the year, even in previously unaffected ecosystems. With these rising threats, fire impacts have fast outpaced solutions. CXL is developing the Fire Grand Challenge to unearth global, collective solutions to change how we live with and manage fire across three key geographies—the Amazon, the American West, and Indonesia. At its core, the Challenge will braid together Indigenous, traditional, and rural knowledge with cutting-edge science, innovation, and technology. With its open innovation style design, the Challenge will seek to empower communities on the frontlines, who hold deep place-based knowledge developed over generations of living closely with fire.

We are seeking a Fire Open Innovation Intern who can contribute to the impact and success of the Fire Grand Challenge.

ABOUT THE ROLE

The Fire Grand Challenge team at Conservation X Labs is seeking a team player with a passion for conservation, technology, community building, Indigenous and community engagement and research. This position will work closely with the Manager of the Fire Grand Challenge and the Community Outreach Lead to help develop and implement partnership and innovator research, outreach, and recruitment for the Fire Grand Challenge. This role will include activities related to partner identification and outreach, challenge communications, innovator recruitment, data management, and associated research.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree or rising Junior or Senior at 4-year college or university (or equivalent work experience).

- Experience and/or interest in working with Indigenous and community-led organizations or organizations that partner with Indigenous and/or other underserved communities.
- Ability to translate ideas, work plans, and scientific and technical information into relatable and inspiring text and presentations.
- Ability to work across cultures and disciplines, and to listen and learn from a diverse set of perspectives and stakeholders.
- Exceptional writing and communication skills in English. Spanish or Portuguese are desirable but not required.

The Fire Grand Challenge team at Conservation X Labs is seeking a team player with a passion for conservation, technology, community building, Indigenous rights and practices, and research! This position will work closely with the Manager of the Fire Grand Challenge to help develop and implement partnership and research needs in order to launch and run the Fire Grand Challenge. This role will include activities related to data management, partner identification, challenge implementation, innovator recruitment, and conservation research.

The main office of Conservation X Labs is located in Georgetown in Washington, DC. This position is designed to be an in-person opportunity based in Washington, DC. The Fire Open Innovation Intern is encouraged to come into the office, with some flexibility for remote work as needed. If the candidate is located in Western North America (the target region of the Challenge) they may have the option to work remotely. The position will involve travel to relevant events and convenings.

The Fire Open Innovation Intern will perform the following duties. They will be encouraged to express their interests and to choose to devote their time to tasks that present relevant learning opportunities.

Partnership Building (40%)

- Research and identify potential partners in the fire space to find good fits for the Fire Grand Challenge and Conservation X Labs.
- Maintain data within partnership management systems
- Participate in external partnership calls and internal team meetings and record notes and essential follow up for meetings.
- Recommend and contribute to development of creative partnership engagement strategies.
- Stay up-to-date on partner activities and compile weekly partnership reports around potential engagement opportunities.
- Research relevant events the team can speak at or attend related to the Fire Grand Challenge.

Open Innovation Programmatic Activities (40%)

- Research the viability of available solutions for severe wildfire prevention and mitigation in the three target geographies: the Amazon, the American West, and Indonesia.

- Aid the Manager with a variety of Challenge development and implementation processes that arise before and after the Challenge launch.
- Take part in recruitment calls to help encourage innovators and Indigenous, traditional, and rural community members to apply to the Challenge.
- Develop a regular internal research brief on different aspects of the wildland fire problem space. Briefs can include updates on recent developments in the field and a focused research theme for each week.
- Find relevant scientific articles and catalog them in the reference management database.
- Attend relevant fire-related webinars and report back to the team.
- Engage with the team in weekly meetings.

Administration & Communications (20%)

- Perform administrative functions as needed, including, but not limited to, note taking during meetings, organizing program files, call scheduling, email drafting, and event logistics.
- Write posts, newsletter features, and blog posts for communications around the Fire Grand Challenge.

Don't check off every box? Apply anyway! Studies have shown that women and people of color are less likely to apply for jobs unless they meet every listed qualification. If you're excited about this role with a willingness to learn but your past experience doesn't align perfectly, we encourage you to apply anyway – you might just be the right candidate.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

We are committed to making this internship program a truly useful professional experience that will help prepare interns for a career in conservation and environmental innovation. Each week, the intern will meet with members of other teams to learn about their work, and the team will facilitate opportunities for the intern to connect with environmental professionals in other organizations, in order to empower the intern to make the most of their time in Washington, DC.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Passionate about addressing pressing conservation crises and climate change.
- Smart, capable, and excited to learn.
- Self-starter with a track record of working both on teams and independently.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills: ability to prioritize and manage multiple deadlines and maintain a high degree of judgment and attention to detail.
- Strong research, analysis, writing and communication skills to analyze dynamics of underlying drivers of conservation problems.
- Ability to translate ideas, work plans, and scientific and technical information into relatable and inspiring text and presentations.
- Exceptional writing and communication skills in English. Spanish, Portuguese, or Indonesian Bahasa are desirable but not required.

- Experience and/or interest in working with Indigenous-led conservation organizations or organizations that represent Indigenous and/or traditional communities.
- Ability to work across cultures and disciplines, and to listen and learn from a diverse set of perspectives and stakeholders.
- Some understanding of the conservation space and key players.
- Forward thinking, creative, and innovative.

EDUCATION

Applicants should be currently pursuing an Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's degree.

CXL is committed to creating and cultivating a diverse workforce and inclusive environment where every employee and contractor has the right to work in surroundings that are free from all forms of unlawful or intentional discrimination. It is our policy to hire, promote, transfer, terminate, and make all employment related decisions without regard to race, creed, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, gender, or sexual orientation.